

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] To load the sample, a small hole is made in one of the ears 158 in the cover sheet ~~446~~156, and introducing the liquid sample into the space surrounding the IPG 12 formed by the cover. It is important to introduce only enough liquid to rehydrate the IPG 12, as any liquid which is not absorbed will contain protein and thus diminish the load. The dry IPG 12 is allowed to rehydrate until all the liquid has been absorbed. After the rehydration process the cover 156 is removed by peeling it away from the cassette using one or both of the ears 158 as a handle.

Please replace Paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] Alternatively but less advantageously it is possible to load the sample in a cassette as in Fig. 1 which does not have an IPG cover.[[.]] In this embodiment the cassette, as shown in Fig. 1, is placed horizontally as shown in Fig. 2, with the IPG gel facing up or down and rehydration liquid 36 is carefully placed onto the surface of the IPG using a syringe. Capillary action holds the rehydration liquid 36 onto the IPG surface and air acts as a barrier in the gap between the IPG and the second dimension gel, preventing the rehydration liquid 36 from contacting the second dimension gel. Although the embodiment of the cassette shown in Fig. 1 shows uses air as the barrier between the gels during the rehydration process it will be clear to those skilled in the art that a combined 2-D gel of this design could use gases other than air, or liquids or solids as the barrier during the rehydration.